

**Promotion of Business with Latin America**

† \*391. DR. D. MASTHAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored the possibilities to promote business with Latin America;

(b) if so, the names of the items whose export and import is possible with Latin America; and

(c) the other areas where business can be promoted and the facilities proposed to be provided by Government to Indian businessmen for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An activity based programme namely Focus: LAC has been launched in November, 1997 for a period of 6 years to boost trade with Latin America.

India's export to this region mainly consists of textiles and readymade garments, engineering goods such as bicycles and components thereof, diesel engines, automotive components, hand tools etc., chemical and allied items like fine chemicals, dye and dye intermediates, tyres and tubes, rubber gloves, handicrafts items, sports goods, electronic items, jute, shellac, tea and spices.

Non-ferrous metals, crude minerals, PVC, pulp and paper waste, raw wool are India's main import from LAC.

(c) The other fields where business can be promoted at present are Textiles including ready-made garments, carpets and handicrafts; Engineering products; Computer software; Chemical products including drugs and pharmaceuticals. The facilities provided by Government include support through Market Development Assistance for buyer-seller meets in both India and Latin America region, participation in foreign fairs, support for setting up warehouses in Latin America and inviting buyers from Latin America to India.

**Old Age Homes Constructed in North-Eastern Region**

\*392. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.